

REMARKS

This application is a divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/561,098 filed April 28, 2000. The parent application stems from a series of applications and claims priority to U.S. Serial No. 07/783,558 filed October 28, 1991 (abandoned). Claims 29-43 are pending in the application.

It is believed that the pending claims are fully supported by the original application, namely U.S. Serial No. 07/783,558; filed October 28, 1991, for which priority is claimed.

The Examiner should be aware that the present application has numerous co-pending applications in the chain of applications having U.S. Serial No. 07/783,558 as the originally filed parent application. Applicants will provide any information relating to the co-pending applications as requested by the Examiner.

The Examiner should be aware that there is an ongoing appeal of Opposition proceedings held in Europe relating to a foreign counterpart of the present application. During the Opposition proceedings, the claims of the foreign counterpart were revoked in view of, inter alia, a prior art article entitled *Hepatic Inferior Vena Cava Obstruction: Treatment of Two Types With Gianturco Expandable Metal Stents*, Radiology, pp. 665-670, September 1990, by Furui, et al. The decision of the Opposition Division revoking the European counterpart is attached hereto. In an abundance of caution, Applicants have brought the appeal and Opposition proceedings to the attention of the Examiner and will provide any documents from the appeal or Opposition proceedings requested by the Examiner. It is believed that the claims of the present application are

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patentably distinguishable over the disclosure in the Furui article. The Furui article was brought to the attention of the Examiner in an Information Disclosure Statement filed June 29, 2001.

Claims 29-43 are believed to be patentable over the prior art and early consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By:



John S. Nagy
Registration No. 30,664

JSN:jeb
#227261

6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, California 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555

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